

From: Sam Cramer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:11pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to object to the proposed Microsoft settlement. As a practicing software engineer with approximately 20 years of experience, I feel confident in saying that the proposed settlement will do little to weaken Microsoft's illegal stranglehold on the desktop computer operating system and office suite market. Indeed, it appears that it will allow them to extend this monopoly to the developing "Web Services" market.

As long as Microsoft has the right to change APIs and publish them in full at the same time that they are changed, they will always be able to build proprietary systems which can not be emulated by competitors. By narrowly defining the terms "API" and "Microsoft Middleware", the proposed settlement leaves Microsoft clear to change these APIs and keep them proprietary. No wonder the company is so strongly in favor of the proposed settlement!

Sincerely,
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PS: The opinions expressed in this message are mine, and not necessarily those of my employer.

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